

SAFE SUPPORTS NEW LEGISLATION TO SAFEGUARD IRAQ'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.

NEW YORK AUGUST 20, 2003—SAFE (**Saving Antiquities For Everyone**), a new nonprofit volunteer organization, is launching a campaign to gain support for proposed legislation aimed at the recovery and protection of Iraq's priceless and imperiled cultural heritage.

The Iraq Cultural Heritage Act (H.R. 2009) is designed to close a loophole in the existing law arising from the current lack of a legitimate government in Iraq. According to the bill's sponsors, Congressmen James Leach (R-IA) and Phil English (R-PA), this legislation would prohibit the importation into the United States of any archaeological or cultural material removed from Iraq without appropriate documentation, extending to 1990 when sanctions on Iraq were imposed.

"Our support of H.R. 2009 is in keeping with our mission to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving cultural antiquities," declares SAFE Founder, Cindy Ho. The first part of SAFE's support for this legislation is a poster publicizing the bill that is available on SAFE's Website (www.safenow.net) for anyone to download and distribute.



"We urge visitors to our website to print out the poster," says Ms. Ho, "and hang it wherever they can so that the public can see it. H.R. 2009 needs the support of everyone." According to the offices of the Congressmen sponsoring the bill, the poster will be used as a tool to rally public support behind it.

SAFE was created to bring together academics and leaders in the museum community with professionals from communications, media, and advertising in the preservation cause. The goal, she continues, "is to work together to create a public awareness campaign targeted at informing as many people as possible about the vital importance of preserving our endangered cultural heritage."

It is currently sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts, which, as a 501(c)(3) corporation is tax-exempt. Any contributions of cash, securities, or materials made to the Foundation on behalf of SAFE are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

For further information, please contact us at safeinfo@safenow.net, or Cindy Ho at 212-299-8492.

SAFE(Saving Antiquities For Everyone) is a nonprofit volunteer organization based in New York.

SAFE has no political or commercial affiliations.